



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6222.0 - Job Search Experience, Australia, Jul 2009

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Summary

Main Features

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about the experiences of unemployed people in seeking work, in terms of the steps they have taken to find work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. It also presents information about employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months. For this group, data on the steps taken to attain work and current job details are provided. In addition, demographic information is provided for both of these groups.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey, conducted throughout Australia in July 2009 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

As of July 2009, the name 'Job Network' changed to 'Job Services Australia'. This publication uses 'Job Network' and will incorporate the name change for the 2010 issue.

A new data item 'Number of children in family aged under 15 years' was added in 2009.

ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Labour Market Statistics Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

conceptual framework

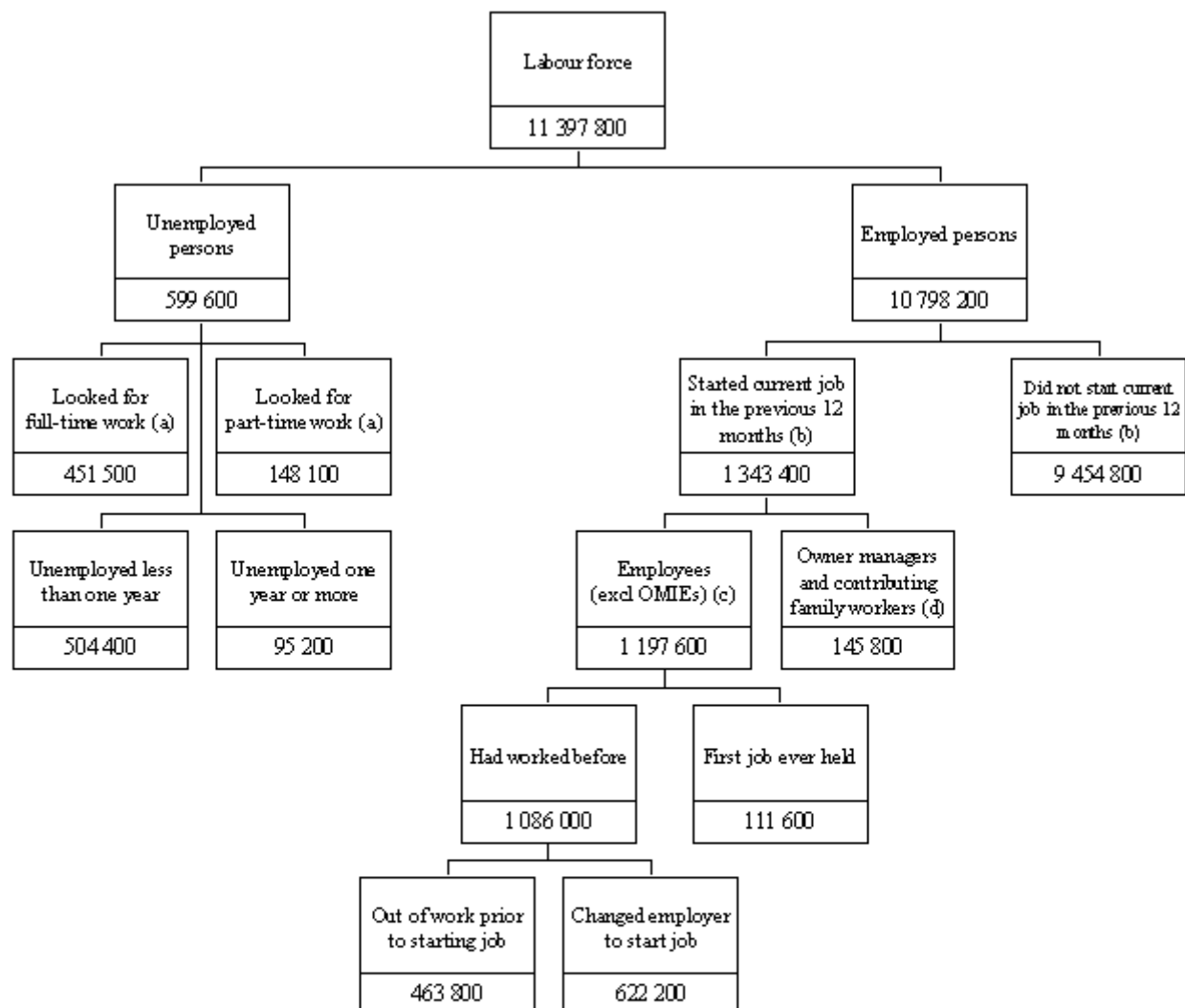
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The following diagram illustrates the conceptual framework for the 2009 Job Search Experience Survey. It presents two mutually exclusive groups in the labour force as at July 2009:

- unemployed persons
- employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

In July 2009, there were 599,600 unemployed people, and 1.3 million employed people who had started their current job in the previous 12 months.



(a) See Glossary for definition of unemployed looking for full-time or part-time work.

(b) See Glossary for definition of current job.

(c) Owner managers of incorporated enterprises.

(d) Includes owner managers of incorporated enterprises and owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.

Summary Of Findings

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

In July 2009, there were 599,600 unemployed people comprising 345,200 (58%) men and 254,400 (42%) women. The median duration of unemployment increased from 11 weeks in July 2008 to 16 weeks in July 2009.

Three-quarters (75%) of unemployed people were looking for full-time work with nearly two-thirds (64%) of these being men. Women accounted for 61% of people looking for part-time work. Of unemployed men, 83% were looking for full-time work, while 36% of unemployed women were looking for part-time work. More than half (56%) of unemployed people were without a non-school qualification, while 14% reported their highest level of non-school qualification was a Bachelor Degree or above. The majority (57%) of unemployed people were aged between 15 and 34 years.

There were approximately 1.3 million job starters (employed people who had started their current job in the previous 12 months) at July 2009. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of job starters were working full-time. There were 59% of job starters with a non-school qualification, of which 43% had a Bachelor Degree or above.

UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE

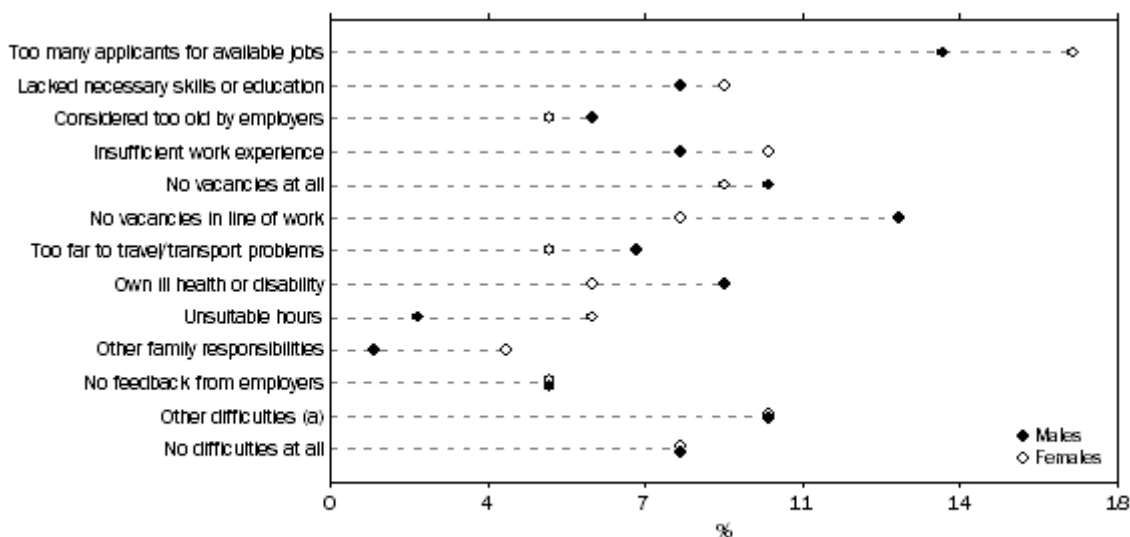
Duration of unemployment

The majority (84%) of unemployed people had been unemployed for less than one year. Under half (45%) of people who had been unemployed for less than 1 year had a non-school qualification. This compares with 39% who had been unemployed for more than 1 year.

Difficulties in finding work

For unemployed people, the most commonly reported main difficulty in finding work was 'too many applicants for available jobs' (15%) followed by 'no vacancies in line of work' (11%).

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Main difficulty in finding work - By sex



(a) Includes people who reported 'considered too young by employers', 'language difficulties', 'difficulties with finding child care' or 'difficulties because of ethnic background'.

The difficulties in finding work for unemployed people varied with whether they were men or women, what age they were, how long they have been unemployed and what type of work they were looking for (full-time or part-time).

The most common main difficulty in finding work reported by unemployed men was 'too many applicants for available jobs' (14%). The next most common difficulties reported by men were 'no vacancies in line of work' (13%) and 'no vacancies at all' (10%). In comparison, for women the most common main difficulty was 'too many applicants for available jobs' (17%). This was followed by 'insufficient work experience' (10%).

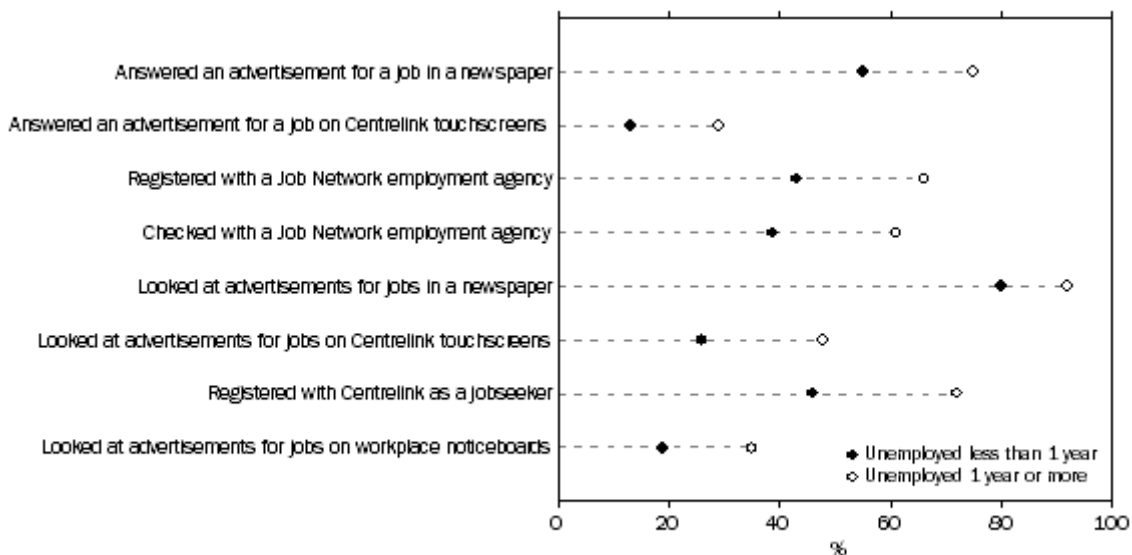
For long-term unemployed people, the main difficulty reported was 'own ill-health or disability' (16%) followed by 'too many applicants for available jobs' and 'insufficient work experience' (both 12%). However, people who had been unemployed for less than 1 year most commonly reported 'too many applicants for available jobs' (15%) as their main difficulty.

There were 46,800 unemployed people who reported that they had 'no difficulties at all' in finding work. Of those reporting no difficulties, 68% had been unemployed for less than eight weeks.

All steps taken to find work

The most common steps taken to find work reported by unemployed people in July 2009 were 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' (83%) and 'looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper' (82%). Other steps commonly taken to find work included 'looked at advertisements on the Internet' (75%) and 'answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet' (59%).

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Selected steps taken to find work(a) - By duration of current period of unemployment



(a) Refers to all steps taken to find work, therefore people may appear in more than one category.

The largest percentage point difference in the steps taken to find work for long-term unemployed people compared to those who had been unemployed for less than 1 year were:

- 'registered with Centrelink as a job seeker' (72% and 46% respectively)
- 'registered with a Job Network employment agency' (66% and 43% respectively)
- 'looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens' (48% and 26% respectively).

The pattern of steps taken to find work also varied depending on whether job-seekers were looking for full-time or part-time work.

The largest percentage point differences between those looking for full-time work and those looking for part-time work were in the steps involving Centrelink or the Job Network employment agencies. For example:

- 'registered with Centrelink as a job seeker' (58% of those looking for full-time work and 23% of those looking for part-time work)
- 'registered with a Job Network employment agency' (55% and 21% respectively)
- 'checked with a Job Network employment agency' (50% and 19% respectively).

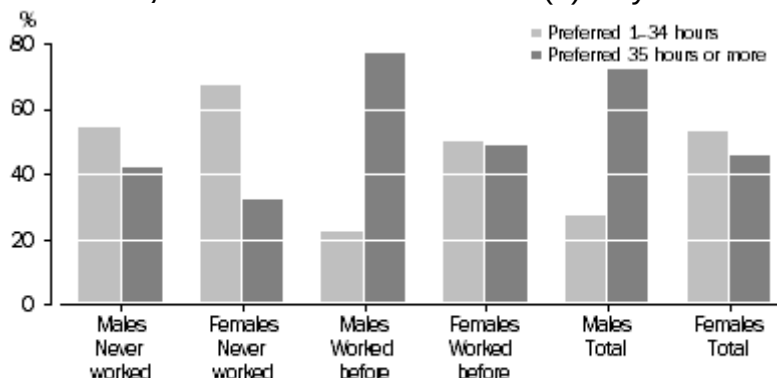
Older and younger unemployed

In July 2009, 25% (147,000) of unemployed people were aged 45 years and over compared to 36% (215,000) of unemployed people aged 15-24 years. The most common steps taken to find work reported by the older unemployed (aged 45 years and over) were 'looked at advertisements for a job in the newspaper' (85%) and 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' (84%). In contrast, the most common steps taken to find work reported by the younger unemployed (aged 15-24 years) were 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' (81%) and 'looked at advertisements for a job on the Internet' (80%).

Preferred number of hours

Generally, unemployed men preferred to work more hours than unemployed women. In July 2009, 72% of unemployed men reported that they preferred to work 35 hours or more, compared to 46% of unemployed women.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Preferred number of hours(a) - By whether had worked before



(a) Includes people who did not know how many hours they preferred to work.

Women who had never worked before preferred to work less than 35 hours (67% compared to 54% of men), whereas 77% of men who had worked before preferred to work 35 hours or more (compared to 49% of women who had worked previously).

ALL JOB STARTERS

Characteristics of current job

There were 1.3 million job starters (employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months) at July 2009, and around 92% of these were employees and 7% were own account workers. More than one-third of job starters (38% or 507,400) usually worked part-time hours and 40% of these preferred to work more hours.

Nearly one-third (32%) of job starters who were classified as Sales workers, were aged 15-19, while a large proportion of Professionals (38%) were aged 25-34 years.

Approximately 60% of job starters were aged 15-34 years. Of these, almost half (47%) were aged 25-34 years, a further 28% were aged 20-24 years and the remaining 24% were aged 15-19 years. This partly reflects the transition of younger people from education into work and may also reflect the greater job mobility of younger people. In contrast, 21% were aged 45 years or older (14% were aged 45-54 years and 7% were aged 55 years and over).

Duration of looking for work

Most new job starters had either not been looking for work at all prior to commencing their new job (36%) or had been looking for less than 8 weeks (34%). More than a quarter (26%) had been looking for work for greater than 8 weeks but less than one year before commencing their current job. However, 4% of all job starters had been looking for work for one year or more.

EMPLOYEE (EXCLUDING OMIES) JOB STARTERS

In July 2009 there were an estimated 1.2 million job starters who were employees (excluding OMIEs). For 9% of these, it was the first job they ever had. Close to two-thirds of first job holders (62%) were aged 15-19 years.

Of the 1.1 million employees (excluding OMIEs) who started their current job in the previous 12 months and had worked before, 57% (622,200) had changed employer to start their current job. The remaining 43% (463,800) were out of work prior to starting their current job.

More than two-fifths (43%) of employees (excluding OMIEs) who started their current job in the previous 12 months did not have paid leave entitlements in their current job. Almost half (44%) of these were aged 15-24 years. Over two thirds (68%) of job starters aged 15-19 years did not have paid leave entitlements. In contrast, the reverse was true for job starters in other age groups. For example 36% of job starters aged 25-34 years did not have paid leave entitlements, and 34% of those aged 45-54 years did not have paid leave entitlements.

Over two-thirds (812,100 or 68%) of employee (excluding OMIEs) job starters reported that they had prior knowledge that work was available before attaining the job. One-third (33%) of these were aged 15-24 years and 19% were aged 45 years and over.

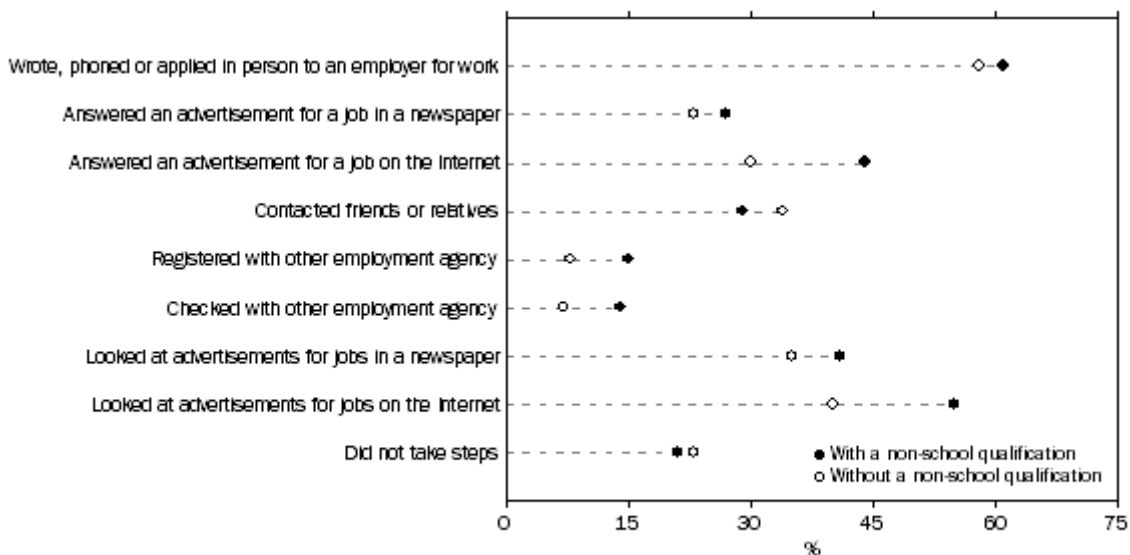
All steps taken to attain a job

The most commonly reported step to attain a job reported by employee (excluding OMIEs) job starters was 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' (60%). This proportion was larger (66%) for people who were out of work prior to starting their job.

A higher proportion of first job holders reported that they 'contacted friends or relatives' (37%) compared to people who had worked before (30%). However, a higher proportion of those who had worked before reported they:

- 'answered an advertisement for a job in the newspaper' (26% compared to 18% of first job holders)
- 'looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper' (40% compared to 27%)
- 'looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet' (50% compared to 40%)
- 'answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet' (39% compared to 28%).

EMPLOYEE (EXCLUDING OMIES) JOB STARTERS, Selected steps taken to attain a job
(a) - Whether had a non-school qualification



(a) Refers to all steps taken to obtain a job, therefore people may appear in more than one category.

Some 690,100 (58%) of employee (excluding OMIEs) job starters had a non-school qualification. Of the steps taken to attain a job, there were some differences between those with a non-school qualification and those without a non-school qualification. These differences include:

- 'answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet' (44% compared to 33% without a non-school qualification)
- 'looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet' (55% compared to 40%)
- 'contacted friends or relatives' (29% compared to 34%)
- 'registered with other employment agency' (15% compared to 8%)
- 'checked with other employment agency' (15% compared to 7%).

About this Release

Provides estimates of unemployed persons classified by difficulties in finding work, duration of current period of unemployment, active steps taken to find work, whether looking for full-time or part-time work, educational attainment, and number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months. Estimates can also be cross-classified by demographic information such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth.

Also provides estimates of employed persons who were formerly jobseekers but were now (as at the survey reference period) employed and were successful in securing that job in the previous 12 months. Estimates can also be cross-classified by demographic information such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey, conducted throughout Australia in July 2009 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

2 The publication **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

3 The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

SCOPE

4 The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following people:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimated populations
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

5 Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

6 This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded people living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia.

7 The survey only relates to people who were unemployed in July 2009, and people employed in July 2009 who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

COVERAGE

8 The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in July 2009. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See **Labour**

Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

SAMPLE SIZE

9 Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

10 The LFS sample size in July 2009 was approximately one-third smaller than the sample size in July 2007. This is due to an 11% sample reduction that was implemented from November 2007 to June 2008 based on the 2006 sample design, and an additional 24% sample reduction implemented in July 2008. Detailed information about the sample reduction is provided in **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Second edition)** (cat. no. 6269.0).

11 The reduced sample will still be representative, with selections made across all parts of Australia.

12 The initial sample for the July 2009 LFS consisted of 27,410 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 21,910 private dwelling households and special dwelling units that remained in the survey after sample loss (e.g. households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 21,034 or 96.0% were fully responding to the Job Search Experience Survey. The number of completed interviews obtained from these private dwellings and special dwelling units (after taking into account scope, coverage and sub-sampling exclusions) was 4,024.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

13 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and effective processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

14 The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

CLASSIFICATIONS USED

15 Country of birth data are classified according to the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998** (cat. no. 1269.0).

16 From 2006, occupation data are classified according to **ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006** (cat. no. 1220.0). This new classification replaces **ASCO - Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997** (cat. no. 1220.0).

17 Also from 2006, industry data are classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006** (cat. no. 1292.0). This new classification replaces the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993** (cat. no. 1292.0).

18 Educational attainment data are classified according to the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)** (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for further information.

NOTES ON ESTIMATES

19 Employees are classified as 'with paid leave entitlements' if they said 'yes' to either of the following questions:

- 'Does your employer provide you with paid sick leave?'
 - 'Does your employer provide you with paid holiday leave?'
- In all other cases, employees are categorised as 'without paid leave entitlements'.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

20 Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The last such revision was made in February 2004 to take account of the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 2004 are therefore based on revised population benchmarks.

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

21 Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this supplementary survey and that of the monthly LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

22 From July 2004, a change has been made to the category 'considered too young or too old by employers' for the data items 'all difficulties in finding work' and 'main difficulty in finding work'. The category has been split into 'considered too young by employers' and 'considered too old by employers'. Data for 'considered too young by employers' is not published separately in all relevant tables, but are available on request.

23 The data item 'number of children in family aged under 15 years' was added in 2009.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

24 JSE was first conducted in July 2002. Results of similar surveys on the job search experience of unemployed people conducted in July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991, and annually from July 1992 to July 2001 were published in various issues of **Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia** (cat. no. 6222.0). Information on people who had started work for an employer for wages or salary during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week was collected in June 1986, and two-yearly from July 1990 to July 2000 and were published in **Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia** (cat. no. 6245.0).

NEXT SURVEY

25 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in July 2010.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

26 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

27 ABS publications which may also be of interest include:

- **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0)
- **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0)
- **Labour Force Experience, Australia** (cat. no. 6206.0)
- **Labour Mobility, Australia** (cat. no. 6209.0)
- **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)
- **Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6220.0)
- **Underemployed Workers, Australia** (cat. no. 6265.0)

28 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the Statistics Page on the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Active steps taken to find work

Active steps taken by unemployed people in their search for work during the current period of unemployment include:

- wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work
- answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper
- answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet
- answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens
- answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards
- contacted friends or relatives
- advertised or tendered for work
- registered with a Job Network employment agency
- registered with other employment agency
- registered with Centrelink as a job seeker.

All difficulties in finding work

All difficulties in finding work experienced by unemployed people during the current period of unemployment.

All steps taken to find work

All steps taken by unemployed people in their search for work during the current period of unemployment.

All steps taken to attain a job

All steps taken to attain a job by people who started their current job in the previous 12 months. Refers to steps taken to attain a job, not necessarily the current job.

Bachelor Degree or above

Bachelor Degree or above includes qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level and Bachelor Degree level.

Centrelink

Centrelink is a statutory authority responsible for delivering a range of Commonwealth Government services, including the registration of people for job search assistance and income support.

Certificate not further defined

Survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0), Level of Education classification.

Contributing family workers

People who work without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

Current job

A job that a person is currently working in, has lasted, or is likely to last for a period of two weeks or more. For people who have commenced more than one job in the previous 12 months, it is the job most recently started.

Duration of current period of unemployment

The period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period. Brief periods of work (of less than two weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.

Duration of looking for work before current job

The number of weeks or years that employed people were looking for work before being offered their current job or starting their own business. For employed people who had worked before, it includes any time they were looking for work before leaving their previous employer.

Employed

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employee (excluding OMIEs) job starters

People, excluding those who operate their own incorporated enterprise with or without employees, who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips piece rates, or payment in kind and started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Employees

People who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or people who operate their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

Employers

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hire one or more employees.

Employment type in current job

Classifies employed people according to the following categories on the basis of their current job:

- Employees (excluding OMIEs)
 - With paid leave entitlements
 - Without paid leave entitlements
- Owner managers of incorporated enterprises
- Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises
- Contributing family workers.

Employment type in main job

For this survey, employment type in main job classifies employed people according to the following categories on the basis of their main job (that is, the job in which the most hours were usually worked):

- Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises OMIEs)
- Owner managers of incorporated enterprises
- Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises
- Contributing family workers.

First job ever held lasting two weeks or more

Refers to employees (excluding OMIEs) who had never worked for two weeks or more before starting their current job.

Full-time workers

Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Had worked before

Refers to employees (excluding OMIEs) who had worked before and were either out of work or changed their employer before starting their current job.

Incorporated enterprise

An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).

Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce both goods and services. In this publication, industry refers to ANZSIC Division as classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006** (cat. no. 1292.0).

Job leavers

Unemployed people who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and left that job voluntarily.

Job losers

Unemployed people who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and left that job involuntarily.

Job Network/Job Services employment agency

The Job Network/Job Services is a national network of private, community and government organisations on contract to the government to provide employment placement services to the community. Job seekers who are registered with Centrelink for job search assistance are able to contact any Job Network provider in their area to receive this service.

Job starters

Employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Level of highest educational attainment

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken. See Appendix 1 for an explanation of how highest level is derived.

Level of highest non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

Long-term unemployed

People whose duration of current period unemployment is 12 months or more.

Main difficulty in finding work

The main difficulty in finding work experienced during the current period of unemployment.

Main English-speaking countries

The list of main English-speaking countries provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America.

Main job

The job in which most hours are usually worked.

Mean duration of current period of unemployment

The duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of people in that group.

Median duration of current period of unemployment

The duration which divides unemployed people into two groups of equal size, one comprising people whose duration of unemployment is above the mid point, and the other, people whose duration is below it.

Number of offers of employment

The number of separate offers of employment received during the current period of unemployment.

Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months

The number of times people reported being out of work and looking for a job during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week.

Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication occupation refers to Major Group as defined by **ANZSCO - Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006** (cat. no. 1220.0).

Own account workers

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engaged independently in a profession or trade, and hired no employees.

Owner managers

People who work in their own business, with or without employees, whether or not the business is an incorporated enterprise. Comprises owner managers of incorporated enterprises and owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.

Owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIE)

People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These people are classified as employees under 'status in employment'.

Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises

People who operate their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession. These people are classified as employers under 'status in employment' if their business has employees, or own account worker if they do not.

Part-time workers

Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and who either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Preferred number of hours

The number of hours unemployed people would like to work each week.

Status in employment

Employed people classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months

The total number of weeks a person has been both out of work and looking for work at the same time during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week.

Unemployed

People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

A small number of people identified as unemployed in the LFS are out of scope for this supplementary survey because they reported that they did not look for work.

Unemployed looking for full-time work

Unemployed people who:

- actively looked for full-time work and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Unemployed looking for part-time work

Unemployed people who:

- actively looked for part-time work only and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new part-time job.

Usually worked full-time hours

Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs).

Usually worked part-time hours

Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs).

Whether had prior knowledge that job was available

Whether employed people knew that a job was available with their current employer before making an approach to that employer for a job.

Whether had ever worked for two weeks or more

Whether unemployed people had previously held a job lasting two weeks or more.

Whether out of work prior to starting job

Whether employed people were not employed immediately prior to starting their current job.

Whether preferred to work more hours than usually worked

Whether employed people who usually worked part-time hours, preferred to work more hours.

With paid leave entitlements

The entitlement of employees (excluding OMIEs) to either paid holiday leave or paid sick leave (or both) in their current job. People employed in their own business or who were contributing family workers were not asked questions about paid leave entitlements. For more information, see paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes.

Without paid leave entitlements

Employees (excluding OMIEs) who were not entitled to, or did not know whether they were entitled to, paid holiday leave and paid sick leave in their current job. For more information, see paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
OMIE	owner manager of incorporated enterprise
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

Classification of education (Appendix)

APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

In 2001, the **ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)** (cat. no. 1262.0) was replaced by the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)** (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. ASCED replaces a number of classifications previously used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

Level of Highest Educational Attainment can be derived from information on Highest Year of School Completed and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification. The derivation process determines which of the 'non-school' or 'school' attainments will be regarded as the highest. Usually the higher ranking attainment will be self-evident, but in some cases some Secondary Education is regarded, for the purposes of obtaining a single measure, as higher than some Certificate level attainments.

The following decision table is used to determine which of the responses to questions on Highest Year of School Completed (coded to ASCED Broad Level 6) and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification (coded to ASCED Broad Level 5) will be regarded as the highest. It is emphasised that this table was designed for the purpose of obtaining a single value for the output variable Level of Highest Educational Attainment and is not intended to convey any other ordinality.

Decision Table: Level of Highest Educational Attainment							
ASCED LEVEL OF EDUCATION CODES	Certificate n.f.d. (500)	Certificate III or IV n.f.d. (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I or II n.f.d. (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)
Secondary Education n.f.d. (600)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Senior Secondary Education n.f.d. (610)	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.
Year 12 (611)	Year 12	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12
Year 11 (613)	Year 11	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
Junior Secondary Education n.f.d. (620)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 10 (621)	Year 10	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Certificate II	Year 10
Year 9 (622)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 8 (623)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 7 (624)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I

The decision table is also used to rank the information provided in a survey about the qualifications and attainments of a single individual. It does not represent any basis for comparison between differing qualifications. For example, a person whose Highest Year of School Completed was Year 12, and whose Level of Highest Non-school Qualification was a Certificate III, would have those responses crosschecked on the decision table and would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as Certificate III. However, if the same person answered 'Certificate' to the highest non-school qualification question, without offering any further detail, it would be crosschecked against Year 12 on the decision table as 'Certificate not further defined'. The output would then be 'Year 12'. The decision table, therefore, does not necessarily imply that one qualification is 'higher' than the other.

Populations and Data Items list (Appendix)

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Job Search Experience Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items are also available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the people in the survey to whom the data relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these

are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth (2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Labour Market Statistics on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, or by facsimile (02) 6252 7102, or by email to <labourstatistics@abs.gov.au>.

Population 1

Unemployed persons.

Population 2

Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Population 3

Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises) who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Data items	Populations
1 State or territory of usual residence	All
New South Wales	
Victoria	
Queensland	
South Australia	
Western Australia	
Tasmania	
Northern Territory	
Australian Capital Territory	
2 Area of usual residence	All
State capital city	
Balance of state/territory	
3 Region of usual residence	All
Standard labour force dissemination regions	
4 Sex	All
Males	
Females	
5 Marital status	All
Married	
Not married	
6 Relationship in household	All
Family member	
Husband, wife or partner	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Lone parent	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Dependent student	
Non-dependent child	
Other related individual	

	Non-family member	
	Lone person	
	Not living alone	
	Relationship not determined	
7A	Country of birth and period of arrival	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	Arrived before 1971	
	Arrived 1971-1980	
	Arrived 1981-1990	
	Arrived 1991-2000	
	Arrived 2001 to survey date	
7B	Country of birth (1)	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	Born in main English-speaking countries	
	Born in other than main English-speaking countries	
7C	Country of birth (2)	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	Oceania and Antarctica	
	North-West Europe	
	Southern and Eastern Europe	
	North Africa and the Middle East	
	South-East Asia	
	North-East Asia	
	Southern and Central Asia	
	Americas	
	Sub-Saharan Africa	
8	Age group (years)	All
	15-19	
	20-24	
	25-34	
	35-44	
	45-54	
	55-59	
	60-64	
	65 and over	
	Note: Age collected in single years.	
9	Number of children in family aged under 15 years	
	Had children under 15 years	
	1 child	
	2 children	
	3 children	
	4 children	
	5 children	
	6 or more children	
	Did not have children under 15 years	
10	Level of highest educational attainment	All
	Postgraduate Degree	
	Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
	Bachelor Degree	
	Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate III/IV	

	Certificate I/II	
	Certificate not further defined	
	Year 12	
	Year 11	
	Year 10 or below	
	Other education	
	Level not determined	
	No educational attainment	
11	Level of highest non-school qualification	All
	With a non-school qualification	
	Postgraduate Degree	
	Graduate	
	Diploma/Graduate	
	Certificate	
	Bachelor Degree	
	Advanced	
	Diploma/Diploma	
	Certificate III/IV	
	Certificate I/II	
	Certificate not further defined	
	Level not determined	
	Without a non-school qualification	
12	Highest year of school completed	All
	Year 12	
	Year 11	
	Year 10	
	Year 9	
	Year 8 or below	
	Never attended school	
13	Highest non-school qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	With a non-school qualification	
	Qualification obtained overseas	
	Qualification obtained in Australia	
	Without a non-school qualification	
14A	Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months	All
	None	
	One	
	Two	
	Three or more	
14B	Number of jobs lasting two weeks or more started in the previous 12 months	All
	None	
	One	
	Two	
	Three or more	
15	All steps taken to find work/attain a job	1,3
	Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	

Answered an advertisement
 for a job in a newspaper
 Answered an advertisement
 for a job on the Internet
 Answered an advertisement
 for a job on Centrelink
 touchscreens
 Answered an advertisement
 for a job on workplace
 noticeboards
 Contacted friends or relatives
 Advertised or tendered for
 work
 Registered with a Job
 Network employment agency
 Registered with other
 employment agency
 Checked with a Job Network
 employment agency
 Checked with other
 employment agency
 Looked at advertisements for
 jobs in a newspaper
 Looked at advertisements for
 jobs on the Internet
 Looked at advertisements for
 jobs on Centrelink
 touchscreens
 Looked at advertisements for
 jobs on workplace
 noticeboards
 Registered with Centrelink as
 a job seeker
 Other
 Did not take steps to find
 work/attain a job
 Note: Multiple response
 category. People may appear
 in more than one category.

16 Whether looked for full-time or part-time work 1

Looked for full-time work
 Looked for part-time work

17 Preferred number of hours 1

1-15
 16-29
 30-34
 35-39
 40
 41-44
 45-48
 49 or more

Did not know
 Note: Collected in single
 hours.

18 Duration of current period of unemployment 1

Under 1 year
 1 and under 4 weeks
 4 and under 8 weeks
 8 and under 13 weeks
 13 and under 26 weeks
 26 and under 39 weeks
 39 and under 52 weeks
 1 year and over
 1 and under 2 years

- 2 years and over
- 19 Whether has been registered with Centrelink as a job seeker 1
- Has been registered with centrelink as a job seeker
 - Has not been registered with Centrelink as a job seeker
- 20A All steps taken to find work 1
- Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work
 - Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper
 - Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet
 - Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens
 - Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards
 - Contacted friends or relatives
 - Advertised or tendered for work
 - Registered with a Job Network employment agency
 - Registered with other employment agency
 - Checked with a Job Network employment agency
 - Checked with other employment agency
 - Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper
 - Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet
 - Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens
 - Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards
 - Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker
 - Other
 - Did not take steps to find work
- Note: Multiple response category. People may appear in more than one category.
- 20B Active steps taken to find work 1
- Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work
 - Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper
 - Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet
 - Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens
 - Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards
 - Contacted friends or relatives
 - Advertised or tendered for work

Registered with a Job
 Network employment agency
 Registered with other
 employment agency
 Registered with Centrelink as
 a job seeker
 Took no active steps
 Note: Multiple response
 category. People may appear
 in more than one category.

20C Active steps taken to find work and whether has been registered with a Job Network employment agency 1
 Has been registered with a
 Job Network employment
 agency
 Wrote, phoned or
 applied in person to an
 employer for
 work
 Answered an
 advertisement for a job
 in a newspaper
 Answered an
 advertisement for a job
 on the Internet
 Answered an
 advertisement for a job
 on Centrelink
 touchscreens
 Answered an
 advertisement for a job
 on workplace
 noticeboards
 Contacted friends or
 relatives
 Advertised or tendered
 for work
 Took no active steps
 Has not been registered with
 a Job Network employment
 agency
 Note: Multiple response
 category. People may appear
 in more than one category.

20D Whether has been registered with a Job Network employment agency 1
 Has been registered with a
 Job Network employment
 agency
 Has not been registered with
 a Job Network employment
 agency

21 Number of offers of employment in the current period of unemployment 1
 None
 One
 Two
 Three or more

22A All difficulties in finding work 1
 Too many applicants for
 available jobs
 Lacked necessary skills or
 education
 Considered too young by
 employers

	Considered too old by employers Insufficient work experience No vacancies at all No vacancies in line of work Too far to travel/transport problems Own ill health or disability Language difficulties Unsuitable hours Difficulties with finding child care Other family responsibilities Difficulties because of ethnic background Other difficulties No difficulties at all No feed back from employers Note: Multiple response category. People may appear in more than one category.	
22B	Main difficulty in finding work	1
	Too many applicants for available jobs Lacked necessary skills or education Considered too young by employers Considered too old by employers Insufficient work experience No vacancies at all No vacancies in line of work Too far to travel/transport problems Own ill health or disability Language difficulties Unsuitable hours Difficulties with finding child care Other family responsibilities Difficulties because of ethnic background No feedback from employers Other difficulties No difficulties at all	
23	Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months	1
	One Two Three or more	
24	Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months	1
	1 and under 2 weeks 2 and under 4 weeks 4 and under 8 weeks 8 and under 13 weeks 13 and under 26 weeks 26 and under 39 weeks 39 and under 52 weeks 52 weeks	
25	Whether had ever worked for two weeks or more	1
	Had previously worked Last job less than 2 years ago Last job 2 years or more ago Had never worked	
26	Status in employment of last job	1

Last job less than 2 years ago
 Employee (including OMIE)
 Employer
 Own account worker
 Contributing family worker
 Unpaid voluntary worker
 Last job 2 or more years ago
 Had never worked
 27 Occupation of last job 1
 Last job less than 2 years ago
 Managers
 Professionals
 Technicians and trades workers
 Community and personal service workers
 Clerical and administrative workers
 Sales workers
 Machinery operators and drivers
 Labourers
 Unpaid voluntary workers
 Last job 2 or more years ago
 Had never worked
 28 Industry of last job 1
 Last job less than 2 years ago
 Agriculture, forestry and fishing
 Mining
 Manufacturing
 Electricity, gas, water and waste services
 Construction
 Wholesale trade
 Retail trade
 Accommodation and food services
 Transport, postal and warehousing
 Information media and telecommunications
 Financial and insurance services
 Rental, hiring and real estate services
 Professional, scientific and technical services
 Administrative and support services
 Public administration and safety
 Education and training
 Health care and social assistance
 Arts and recreation services
 Other services
 Last job 2 or more years ago
 Had never worked
 29 Whether worked full-time or part-time in last job 1
 Worked full-time
 Worked part-time
 Had never worked
 30 Duration of last job 1
 Last job less than 2 years ago
 Less than 1 year
 2 and under 4 weeks
 4 and under 8 weeks
 8 and under 26 weeks
 26 and under 52 weeks

	1 and under 2 years	
	2 and under 5 years	
	5 years and over	
	Last job 2 or more years ago	
	Unpaid voluntary worker	
	Had never worked	
31	Reason for ceasing last job	1
	Last job less than 2 years ago	
	Job loser	
	Laid off or retrenched	
	Job was temporary or seasonal	
	Own ill health or disability	
	Own business closed down for economic reasons	
	Job leaver	
	Unsatisfactory work arrangements	
	Holiday job/returned to studies	
	Other	
	Unpaid voluntary worker	
	Last job 2 or more years ago	
	Had never worked	
32	Whether had job to go to lasting two weeks or more	1
	Had a job to go to	
	Did not have a job to go to	
33	Status in employment in current job	2
	Employees (including OMIEs)	
	Employers	
	Own account workers	
	Contributing family workers	
34	Employment type in main job	2,3
	Employees (excluding OMIEs)	
	Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	
	Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	
	Contributing family workers	
35	Employment type in current job	2,3
	Employees (excluding OMIEs)	
	With paid leave entitlements	
	Without paid leave entitlements	
	Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	
	Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	
	Contributing family workers	
36	Month started current job	2,3
	July 2008	
	August 2008	
	September 2008	
	October 2008	
	November 2008	
	December 2008	
	January 2009	
	February 2009	
	March 2009	
	April 2009	
	May 2009	
	June 2009	
	July 2009	
37	Duration of looking for work before current job	2,3

	Less than 1 year	
	1 and under 4 weeks	
	4 and under 8 weeks	
	8 and under 13 weeks	
	13 and under 26 weeks	
	26 and under 52 weeks	
	1 and under 2 years	
	2 and under 5 years	
	5 years and over	
	Did not look for work	
	Note: Available in single weeks/years.	
38	Occupation of current job	2,3
	Managers	
	Professionals	
	Associate professionals	
	Technicians and trades workers	
	Community and personal service workers	
	Clerical and administrative workers	
	Sales workers	
	Machinery operators and drivers	
	Labourers	
39	Full-time or part-time status of current employment	2,3
	Full-time worker	
	Part-time worker	
40	Whether preferred to work more hours than usually worked	2,3
	Usually worked part-time hours	
	Preferred to work more hours	
	Did not prefer to work more hours	
	Did not know	
	Usually worked full-time hours	
41	Whether had paid leave entitlements in current job	3
	With paid leave entitlements	
	Without paid leave entitlements	
42	Whether entitled to paid sick leave in current job	3
	Entitled to paid sick leave	
	Not entitled to paid sick leave	
	Did not know	
43	Whether entitled to paid holiday leave in current job	3
	Entitled to paid holiday leave	
	Not entitled to paid holiday leave	
	Did not know	
44	Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more	3
	First job ever held	
	Had worked before	
	Out of work prior to starting job	
	Changed employer to start job	
45	All steps taken to attain a job	3
	Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	
	Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	

Contacted friends or relatives
 Advertised or tendered for work
 Registered with a Job Network
 employment agency
 Registered with other employment
 agency
 Checked with a Job Network
 employment agency
 Checked with other employment
 agency
 Looked at advertisements for jobs in
 a newspaper
 Looked at advertisements for jobs on
 the Internet
 Looked at advertisements for jobs on
 Centrelink touchscreens
 Looked at advertisements for jobs on
 workplace noticeboards
 Registered with Centrelink as a job
 seeker
 Other
 Did not take steps to attain a job
 Note: Multiple response category.
 People may appear in more than one
 category.

46 Whether job seeker approached employer 3

Job seeker approached employer
 Employer approached job seeker

47 Whether had prior knowledge that current job was available 3

Had prior knowledge that job or work was available

Job Network employment
 agency
 Other employment agency
 School programs
 Careers service at educational
 institution
 Advertisements in a newspaper
 Advertisements on the Internet
 Advertisements on Centrelink
 touchscreens
 Advertisements on workplace
 noticeboards
 Friends, relatives or company
 contacts
 Other sources

Did not have prior knowledge that job was available

48 Role of Job Network in job attainment 3

Job Network helped job seeker to
 obtain job in some way
 Job Network did not help job seeker
 to obtain job in any way
 Did not know
 Did not use Job Network in job
 attainment

Supplementary Surveys (Appendix)

APPENDIX 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program and Multi-Purpose Household Survey program collect data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of labour surveys collected in these programs. Data from these surveys are available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

	cat. no.	Frequency	Latest issue
Monthly Population Supplementary Surveys			
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2005
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular	June 2006
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2008
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2008
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Annual	November 2008
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2009
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2009
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 2007
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2008
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	November 2008
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(a)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2008
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2008
Working Time Arrangements, Australia(b)	6342.0	Irregular	November 2006
Multi-Purpose Household Surveys			
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial	2008-2009
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Biennial	2008-2009
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	2005-2006

(a) Latest data available on request July 2001.

(b) This product replaces the publication Working Arrangements, Australia (cat. no. 6342.0).

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Job Search Experience Survey is the primary ABS data source about the experiences of unemployed people in seeking work, and information on employed people who started

their current job in the previous 12 months. It provides a comprehensive view of the nature and extent of unemployment, the problems unemployed people face in finding a job, and the different steps taken to find a job. For more information on the content and design of the survey refer to [Quality Declaration - Relevance](#).

The Job Search Experience Survey collects information on two mutually exclusive groups in the labour force aged 15 years and over as at July:

- [unemployed persons](#)
- [employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months](#).

The Job Search Experience Survey is conducted annually as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey. The main product from the survey is the publication, **Job Search Experience, Australia** (cat. no. 6222.0).

TIMELINESS

The publication is released approximately six months after the completion of enumeration in July. The Job Search Experience Survey is expected to be conducted again in July 2010.

ACCURACY

Estimates from the Job Search Experience Survey, including those presented in the publication, are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

The Job Search Experience Survey was designed primarily to provide estimates at the Australia level. Broad estimates are available for State or territory of usual residence and State capital city/Balance of state/territory, though users should exercise caution when using estimates at this level because of the presence of high sampling errors. Relative standard errors for all estimates in the publication are available in table T2 in the Technical Note of the publication.

COHERENCE

The Conceptual Framework presented in the publication is described in more detail in Chapter 3 and Chapter 6 of **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001). The statistics from this survey are comparable with other labour statistics produced by the ABS.

The ABS has been conducting the Job Search Experience Survey annually in its current form since 2002. Results of previous surveys on the job search experience of unemployed people conducted in July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991 and annually from July 1992 to July 2001 were published in various issues of **Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia** (cat. no. 6222.0). Information on people who had started work for an employer for wages or salary during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week was collected in June 1986, and two-yearly from July 1990 to July 2000 and were published in **Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia** (cat. no. 6245.0).

Key changes made to the collection methodology of the Job Search Experience Survey since 2002 are reflected in relevant publications. For more information on changes to the survey see Chapter 21.4 of **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

INTERPRETABILITY

Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0) contains tables with footnoted data and a Summary of Findings to aid interpretation of the results of the survey. Detailed Explanatory Notes, a Technical Note and a Glossary are also included providing information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.

Further commentary is often available through articles and data published in other ABS products, including:

- **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0) - refer to Appendix 2 for past articles.
- **Australian Social Trends** (cat. no. 4102.0) - refer to the 'Cumulative list of articles'.
- **Year Book, Australia** (cat. no. 1301.0) - refer to the 'Labour' chapter.

ACCESSIBILITY

Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0) is released electronically via the ABS website as a PDF publication. Additional data may be available on request (subject to data quality). For a list of data items available see Appendix 2 of the publication. Note that detailed data can be subject to high relative standard errors, and in some cases, may result in data being confidentialised.

For further information about these or related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Centre on 1300 135 070 or the Labour Market Statistics Section in Canberra on (02) 6252 7206.

Quality Declaration - Relevance

CONTENT AND DESIGN

This publication provides presents detailed information about unemployed people, including steps they have taken to find work, whether they looked for full-time or part-time work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. It also presents information about employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months, such as steps taken to attain work and current job details, including occupation and full-time or part-time status of employment. Demographic information is provided for both of these groups, including state/territory of usual residence, age, sex, country of birth and level of highest non-school qualification. Information regarding employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprise) is also presented in individual tables.

The survey design information relevant to the Labour Force Survey also applies to the Job

Search Experience Survey and other supplementary surveys, with some exceptions for special dwellings. It includes people in both urban and rural areas (excluding very-remote areas) in all states and territories. Refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#) of the publication for more information.

UNEMPLOYED

People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

EMPLOYED PERSONS

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four-week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Quality Declaration - Coherence

Key changes made to the collection methodology of the Job Search Experience Survey since 2004 include:

- Revisions were made to population benchmarks for the Labour Force Survey and supplementary surveys in 2004 to take account of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 2004 are based on the revised benchmarks.
- In July 2004, computer assisted interviewing was introduced for the Job Search Experience Survey, and was fully implemented in July 2005. The change of interviewing method is not expected to have affected estimates in any meaningful way.
- From 2006, occupation data are classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation, First Edition, 2006** (cat. no. 1220.0).
- From 2006, industry data are classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006** (cat. no. 1292.0).
- In 2008 Population 3 was introduced, 'Employees (excluding OMIEs) who started their current job in the previous 12 months'.

Data quality (Technical Note)

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

INTRODUCTION

1 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

3 The LFS sample size in July 2009 was approximately one-third smaller than the sample size in July 2007. This is due to an 11% sample reduction that was implemented from November 2007 to June 2008 based on the 2006 sample design, and an additional 24% sample reduction implemented in July 2008. In combination, the two sample reductions are expected to increase the standard errors for estimates from the supplementary surveys by approximately 22% at the broad aggregate level, relative to the 2001 sample design (standard errors will vary at lower aggregate levels). Detailed information about the sample reduction is provided in **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Second edition)** (cat. no. 6269.0).

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

4 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 4 shows the estimated number of unemployed women in Australia who were looking for full-time work was 163,400. Since this estimate is between 150,000 and 200,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 5,700 and 6,400 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

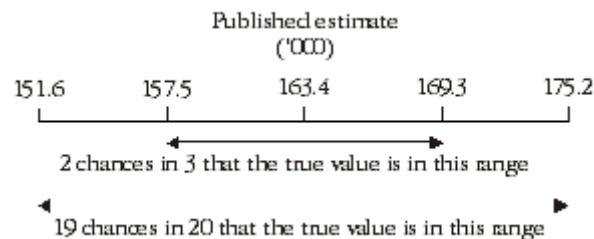
SE of estimate

$$= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right)$$

$$= 5,700 + \left(\left(\frac{163,400 - 150,000}{200,000 - 150,000} \right) \times (6,400 - 5,700) \right)$$

$$= 5,900 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}$$

5 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 157,500 to 169,300 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 151,600 to 175,200. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



6 In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.2), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of less than 25%. Table T2 presents the levels at which estimates have RSEs of 25% and 50%.

MEANS AND MEDIANS

7 The RSEs of estimates of mean duration of unemployment and median duration of unemployment are obtained by first finding the RSE of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the mean or median (see table T1) and then multiplying the resulting number by the following factors for Australian estimates:

- mean duration of unemployment: 1.6
- median duration of unemployment: 2.5

8 The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 4 shows that the estimated median duration of unemployment for unemployed women in Australia was 14 weeks and shows that the number of unemployed women was estimated as 254,400. The SE of 254,400 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 7,100. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or $7,100/254,400 = 2.8\%$.

9 The RSE of the estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed women is calculated by multiplying this number (2.8%) by the appropriate factor shown in the previous paragraph (in this case 2.5): $2.8 \times 2.5 = 7\%$. The SE of this estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed women is therefore 7% of 14 weeks, i.e. almost one week.

Therefore, there are two chances in three that the median duration of unemployment for women that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 13 to 15 weeks and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 12 weeks to 16 weeks.

10 Table T2 represents the minimum size of estimates, based on the SE model described in paragraph 2, required to have RSEs of less than 25% and 50% respectively. For example, an estimate of median duration of unemployment for Australia based on less than 35,100 people will have an RSE of at least 25%, and an estimate of median duration of unemployment for Australia based on less than 12,500 will have an RSE of at least 50%. For all other estimates, (i.e. those estimates based purely on number of people in a specific category), an estimate of less than 8,600 for the Australian total will have an RSE of at least 25% and an estimate of less than 2,300 will have an RSE of at least 50%.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

11 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y:

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

12 Considering the example from the previous page, of the 163,400 unemployed women who were looking for full-time work, 27,000 or 16.5% had been unemployed for one year or more. The SE of 27,000 may be calculated by interpolation as 3,200. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $3,200/27,000 = 11.9\%$. The SE for 163,400 was calculated previously as 5,900, which converted to an RSE is $5,900/163,400 = 3.6\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(11.9)^2 - (3.6)^2} = 11.3\%$$

13 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of unemployed women looking for full-time work who had been unemployed for one year or more is 1.9 percentage points $(=(16.5/100) \times 11.3)$. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of unemployed women looking for full-time work who have been unemployed for one year or more is between 14.6% and 18.4% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 12.7% to 20.3%.

DIFFERENCES

14 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

15 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (persons)	NSW No.	Vic. No.	Qld No.	SA No.	WA No.	Tas. No.	NT No.	ACT No.	Aust. No.	%
100	340	330	250	200	250	130	90	120	120	120.0
200	450	430	370	270	330	180	130	190	220	110.0
300	540	510	450	320	390	220	170	240	300	100.0
500	660	620	570	390	480	270	220	310	440	88.0
700	760	710	670	450	550	310	250	350	550	78.6
1,000	880	810	780	520	630	360	300	380	700	70.0
1,500	1 030	950	930	600	730	410	350	420	890	59.3
2,000	1 150	1 060	1 040	670	820	450	380	440	1 050	52.5
2,500	1 250	1 150	1 150	750	900	500	400	450	1 200	48.0
3,000	1 350	1 250	1 200	800	950	500	450	500	1 300	43.3
3,500	1 450	1 300	1 300	800	1 000	550	450	500	1 400	40.0
4,000	1 500	1 400	1 350	850	1 050	550	500	550	1 500	37.5
5,000	1 650	1 500	1 450	950	1 150	600	550	600	1 700	34.0
7,000	1 850	1 700	1 650	1 050	1 300	700	650	650	1 950	27.9
10,000	2 150	1 950	1 850	1 200	1 500	800	800	800	2 300	23.0
15,000	2 500	2 250	2 050	1 350	1 700	950	1 100	950	2 650	17.7
20,000	2 750	2 500	2 250	1 500	1 900	1 150	1 400	1 100	2 950	14.8
30,000	3 200	2 900	2 600	1 800	2 150	1 450	2 000	1 450	3 350	11.2
40,000	3 550	3 200	2 850	2 050	2 400	1 700	2 500	1 700	3 650	9.1
50,000	3 850	3 500	3 150	2 300	2 650	1 950	3 000	1 900	3 900	7.8
100,000	4 900	4 550	4 300	3 450	3 900	2 750	5 200	2 550	4 900	4.9
150,000	5 750	5 550	5 300	4 400	5 150	3 300	7 150	2 900	5 700	3.8
200,000	6 600	6 450	6 200	5 200	6 150	3 700	8 900	3 050	6 400	3.2
300,000	8 300	8 300	7 850	6 400	7 750	4 200	12 200	3 200	7 600	2.5
500,000	11 650	11 500	10 600	8 000	9 850	4 850	..	3 200	9 550	1.9
1,000,000	17 300	17 500	15 150	10 200	12 600	5 550	..	..	13 450	1.3
2,000,000	23 300	25 850	20 350	12 100	14 550	..	..	..	19 550	1.0
5,000,000	29 700	41 350	27 450	13 650	15 200	..	..	..	32 600	0.7
10,000,000	31 800	57 000	32 100	..	..	..	..	..	43 500	0.4
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49 100	0.3

.. not applicable

T2 Levels at which estimates have relative standard errors of 25% and 50%(a)

	NSW no.	Vic. no.	Qld no.	SA no.	WA no.	Tas. no.	NT no.	ACT no.	Aust. no.
25% RSE									
Mean duration of unemployment	13 900	11 700	10 600	5 400	7 700	2 800	1 900	2 900	18 100
Median duration of unemployment	36 800	31 800	27 800	14 800	22 300	10 300	6 400	8 500	35 100
All other estimates	7 800	6 700	6 300	3 200	4 400	1 700	1 300	1 700	8 600
50% RSE									
Mean duration of unemployment	4 600	3 900	3 700	1 800	2 600	1 000	600	1 200	5 700
Median duration of unemployment	12 400	10 700	10 200	5 100	7 600	3 400	2 100	2 800	12 500
All other estimates	2 500	2 200	2 100	1 000	1 400	600	400	700	2 300

(a) Refers to the number of people contributing to the estimate.

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